

Through service on numerous department, county, regional, state and national boards, Chief Neuhard has demonstrated his dedication to safety in his community. He is chair of his department's Strategic Planning Leadership Team, a member of the Fairfax County Domestic Violence Prevention Policy Coordinating Council, chair of the National Technology Transfer Center—Emergency Response Advisory Committee, as well as chairman of the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments Fire Chiefs Committee. Additionally, he has served on the Secure Commonwealth Panel since his appointment in 2002 by then-Governor Mark Warner.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to commend and congratulate Chief Michael P. Neuhard on all of his accomplishments. His efforts have boosted the overall safety and preparedness of the citizens of Fairfax County and the region. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding Chief Neuhard for his past accomplishments and in wishing him continued success in the years to come.

#### THE WATER QUALITY INVESTMENT ACT OF 2007

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 22, 2007*

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, last week I was proud to introduce the Water Quality Investment Act of 2007, along with original cosponsors Congressmen DAVE CAMP and MIKE CAPUANO. This bipartisan legislation authorizes a \$3 billion grant program over 6 years to control combined sewer overflows and sanitary sewer overflows.

A combined sewer is a type of sewer system which provides partially separated channels for sanitary sewage and stormwater runoff. This allows the sanitary sewer system to provide backup capacity for the runoff sewer when runoff volumes are unusually high, but it is an antiquated system that is vulnerable to overflow during peak rainfall events. These overflows, called combined sewer overflows, CSOs, contain stormwater and untreated human and industrial waste, toxic materials, and debris that are very harmful to human health.

Combined sewer systems serve roughly 772 American communities containing about 40 million people. My home state of New Jersey has 31 combined sewer systems, with over 200 discharge points throughout the state. The EPA estimates that about 850 billion gallons of untreated wastewater and storm water are released as CSOs each year in the United States.

Because CSOs contain raw sewage along with large volumes of storm water and contribute pathogens, solids, debris, and toxic pollutants to receiving waters, CSOs can create significant public health and water quality concerns. CSOs have contributed to beach closures, shellfish bed closures, contamination of drinking water supplies, and other environmental and public health concerns.

A sanitary sewer overflow, SSO, occurs when raw sewage from municipal sanitary sewers unintentionally discharges, polluting our waters and backing up into basements. SSOs can be attributed to severe weather,

vandalism, and a variety of other causes. The EPA estimates that there are at least 40,000 SSOs every year. In 2003, New Jersey closed over 30,000 acres of classified shellfish growing areas in the Raritan Bay area due to a large SSO.

Upgrading these systems is extremely expensive. The EPA estimates that the total cost of repairing the country's combined sewer systems is nearly \$51 billion; the price tag for fixing U.S. sanitary sewer systems hovers around \$89 billion.

As the former mayor of Paterson, New Jersey, I fully understand the fiscal challenge that many municipalities face in meeting state and federal environmental standards. Many states find building or improving sewer infrastructure financially impossible without aid from the federal government. The Water Quality Investment Act of 2007 will help to alleviate this financial burden, so that municipalities are able to mitigate the harmful effects of CSOs and SSOs.

Madam Speaker, I urge Congress to enact this important legislation, so that we may help our communities provide a cleaner, safer environment for their citizens.

#### TRIBUTE TO OFFICERS CHRIS NELSON AND GARY WAGSTER

**HON. RUSS CARNAHAN**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 22, 2007*

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I stand before you today to honor the efforts of Kirkwood police officers Chris Nelson and Gary Wagster in their rescue of Ben Ownby and Shawn Hornbeck.

Because of these officers' keen skills, these young boys have been reunited to their families and may return to the business of growing up. By their efforts, Officers Nelson and Wagster have given hope to the many families who long for their children's homecoming.

The officers may say that they "simply did their job." However, Madam Speaker, this simply demonstrates the importance and value of the police officers who serve and protect our communities.

Officers Chris Nelson and Gary Wagster are every day heroes, and I am honored to recognize their great work.

I thank them both for their service to our community.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF MS. MYRENE LAW

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 22, 2007*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Myrene Law of North Richland Hills, Texas, who celebrated her 103rd birthday on January 16, 2007.

Born on January 16, 1904 in Fort Worth, Texas, Ms. Myrene Law was an only child raised by her aunt, Rose Melton Twining. She attended Central High School, now Paschal High School, and graduated from a local business college to acquire skills needed as a

legal stenographer. She grew up in a time when newspaper carriers shouted out the news and people listened to radios as a form of entertainment. Ms. Law met her husband, Nugent Law, when she was 12 years old; they were married in 1926. The Laws had a daughter, Rosemary Law, who passed away at a very young age, and a son, Leroy Law, who is now 67 years old.

In 1944, the couple moved to North Richland Hills, Texas, into a house in the Smithfield area where she remained until faltering eyesight forced her to move into a retirement community at 96 years of age. As a stenographer, she worked a myriad of jobs. Ms. Law first worked for a real estate agent, then 4 years for a law firm, 6 years for the legal department of Sinclair Oil Company, and for 10 years at General Dynamics. Initially attempting to retire at age 65, she decided to work for a "lady journalist" the following week, using a typewriter to transcribe recordings for Jane Pattie of Aledo, an author of historical books on cowboy and American Indian facts and legends. Ms. Law later retired again at age 83.

An avid listener of audio books, Ms. Myrene Law has a friend take her to the North Richland Hills Public Library every other week to check out books on cassette, her favorite of which are mysteries. Another friend faithfully takes her to church on Sundays. In addition to being a church and library regular, she also enjoys listening to sermons and news programs on the radio, keeping friends updated on the weather, sharing information on her family, and telling jokes.

I extend my utmost congratulations to Ms. Myrene Law on her recent 103rd birthday, and I join her family and friends in wishing her well in the year 2007. She is a blessing to our community and I am proud to serve as her representative.

#### HONORING THE HONORABLE ROBERT S. CHALK OF LAKE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 22, 2007*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend Robert Chalk on the occasion of his retirement after 32 years of service as a Sheriff Deputy, Police Officer and Chief of Police in Lake County and Clearlake, California. Mr. Chalk has served his community with distinction. His commitment to running an open, citizen-oriented department will long be remembered.

Mr. Chalk began his career in law enforcement in 1975 as a new hire with the Lake County Sheriff's Department. For the last 25 years he has worked for the Clearlake Police Department, rising from Patrol Officer to Sergeant and then Lieutenant before being appointed Chief of Police in 1993. During this time he has also been immensely involved with local law enforcement groups, including 13 years as President of the Lake County Law Enforcement Chief's Association. During his tenure as Chief, Mr. Chalk has overseen a sharp reduction in crime rates in and around Clearlake. His strength of character and affection for his community has been reflected in the work he has accomplished as Chief of Police.